

THE ROMULUS ROMAN

The Official Newspaper Of The City Of Romulus

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GM asks for abatement for \$37 million project

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

General Motors Corp. Romulus Engine plant representatives are preparing to ask city officials for another tax abatement on \$37 million in upgrades to the plant.

The city will schedule a public hearing to solicit public input – as well as that of area businesses – about the plan, according to city records.

Troy Kennedy, a tax manager for the Romulus Engine Plant, said Tuesday that the abatement would eliminate some taxes the company would have to pay on new machinery and equipment used for crankline milling machines.

"It's for improvements on the plant – there aren't going to be any additions (to the plant itself)," he said.

According to the abatement application submitted by the automaker, the work began in 2004 and will be com-

pleted in 2008.

Approving the abatement would save about 68 jobs, but not create any new positions at the plant, according to the application. But retaining jobs – even if the cost seems astronomical – is a priority for the city.

"The council has to decide whether to approve the request, and how long to grant the abatement for," said Tim Keyes, the city economic development director.

"In the 1990s, when business was just crazy, we saw some applications, but in today's business climate, we have to find ways to retain jobs," he said.

General Motors was the recipient of a tax abatement from the city 1998. It was the last company to successfully apply for a 12-year tax abatement. The city uses a complex points system based on the number of years the company has been in the city, the amount of the abatement, the amount of dollars generated by the expansion and the number of jobs provided.

There are some questions about the fairness of the formula used for tax abatements – which are based on the number of years a company is in the city – when no new jobs are created.

Frank Lopez, the owner of Aztec Manufacturing, a company that makes cast iron forgings for the auto industry, was granted a six year abatement on improvements at his plant. He said the number of jobs created – or not created – should be a bigger factor in approval process.

"I've been in Romulus a long time, and I understand that there has to be a fair and consistent formula, Lopez said in April, after his request for a 12-year-abatement was pared down. "But I've created a few jobs for people, and companies like GM are consistently moving jobs overseas."

Keyes said that's a good point, but also a very risky proposition.

See Tax, page 3

Police net \$28,000 in campaign

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Romulus courts will take in \$28,000 in proceeds from the "Click it or Ticket" initiative last week.

As part of the program, which was created in 2000 by the State of Michigan to combat a large number of people who drive



Good grades

The Romulus Senior High School branch of the National Honor Society recently inducted 16 new members at a candlelight ceremony in which several students talked about the importance of learning, good character and leadership. Many parents and teachers were on-hand to celebrate the event with the new inductees. Pictured here are (first row): Jessica Mills, Ayi Batri Burolu, Shalayia Frye, Amna Sheikh, Jetann Robinson and Theresa Windom. In the second row are: Kevin Stobbe, Samantha Arnett-Butscher, Jessica Dick, Jennifer Dick, Erica Wasson, Yette Emanuel, Aurielle McCauley, and Joseph Kiesznowski. Jason Britton is not pictured, but was also inducted. During the ceremony, current members Chrystal Hahn and Shaunta Simon introduced honorary sixth and eighth grade members from several other Romulus schools.

Businesses praise new road plan

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Representatives of businesses along the Merriman Road corridor expressed appreciation during a public hearing on Monday for a plan to make a stretch of the road a special assessment district.

The plan, unveiled last

We're getting new beds and television sets, and it's good to see that the city is looking for ways to fix things up as well.

Christopher Motts

At the beginning of the Memorial Day weekend, we were stopping quite a few people.

Dewayne Decares

without a seatbelt, Romulus police officers wrote 297 traffic citations to people for not buckling up. Each of those tickets cost the driver \$95.

Corporal Dewayne Decares of the Romulus Police Department said that about 10 additional patrols took place during the holiday weekend.

"It's always pretty successful when we do this," he said. "At the beginning of the Memorial Day weekend, we were stopping quite a few people. But towards the end – when the publicity starts on TV and radio that we're going to do this – about 45 minutes will go by until you see

Recreation office moves to new digs

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

The offices of the Romulus Recreation Department have moved from to what will eventually become a new recreation center on Northline Road.

The move of the staff and equipment signifies the first hint of activity at the Northline Road address, where city officials hope a new recreation center will be the pride of the community.

The move occurred on June 1, according to city spokeswoman Kathleen Trent.

Plans for a new recreation

facility – the first in the city's history – are currently under way for an anticipated spring 2006 opening. The offices will accompany basketball courts, a track, meeting rooms and other amenities.

City recreation activities have been planned at the old senior center for several years. That facility is currently being removed, and a new senior center will be constructed there sometime next year. Most activities took place at city parks, or at Romulus High School.

The former building known as the Overhead Crane Co. – and

some adjacent land the city acquired two months ago – will serve as the recreation center. When completed, the 70,000 square-foot facility would cover an 11-acre parcel of land and would include outside facilities, according to the current plan.

Senior center offices moved to a new facility on Ozga Road.

Recreation programming was not interrupted during the move.

For transportation schedules or more information regarding the senior center, call

(734) 955-4120. For information regarding recreation programs, call (734) 942-6852.

month, would ensure a long stretch of road beginning at I-94 would be maintained and improved as part of beautification project financed through captured property taxes.

Christopher Motts, a managing partner with the new Ramada Inn (formerly the Fairfield Inn), said his hotel is undergoing big changes, and he's glad to see the city is undergoing some as well.

"We're doing quite a few things to improve the hotel. We're getting new beds and television sets, and it's good to see that the city is looking for ways to fix things up as well."

See Plan, page 3

Gallery to exhibit watercolor artists' work

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Gwen Tomkow of Farmington Hills has earned renown across the country for her paintings.

Now, art lovers in the Northville area will be able see for themselves why. The Sherrus Gallery of Fine Art in Northville will host an exhibition of her work through the end of the month.

The show, which opened Friday, was a long time in the making. Sherri Mewha, president of the Sherrus Gallery, said that she had admired Tomkow's work for years. Unaware of just how well known Tomkow had become, Mewha said that she contacted Tomkow about teaching a class when she first opened her art supply store, Awakening...the Artist Inside.

"I just thought she was a wonderful artist," said Mewha. "She was one of the artists we wanted to bring in when we opened the gallery."

While many of her paintings depict the gardens surrounding her home, she paints more than just florals. Tomkow said that she is equally happy painting landscapes—especially the scenes from Northern Michigan—or abstracts. In fact, Mewha said that the caliber and variety of her works is what sets her apart from other painters.

"It's just not like a lot of other watercolors," said Mewha. "I'm not a big fan of watercolors usually, but I think her work is wonderful. She's very impressionistic in how she approaches it."

Such praise was a long time coming for Tomkow.

"I was always drawing as a child, but I didn't really do anything with the art," she said.

As an adult, Tomkow once again became interested in developing her skill as an artist. She began to take some art lessons at the YMCA in the 1960s, but she said that she was often hesitant to spend time painting when there were so many other things that needed to be done around her home. However, she received some advice from a fellow artist that resonated with her.

"She said, you can always wash the floor, but it will never stay clean for more than two days," said Tomkow. Her advisor then pointed out that once it is created a work of art could remain beautiful forever.

While she loves the visual impact that the paints can provide, Tomkow said that she has no desire to paint traditional watercolors.

"I don't use opaque watercolors except occasionally... and I don't use a lot of earth tones," she said. "They don't expect these kinds of watercolors. It demands that you take a look at it."

It's a philosophy that seems to have worked for her. Tomkow has been a professional artist since the early 1980s and has earned numerous awards from organizations such as the National Watercolor Society, Watercolor U.S.A. and the Michigan Watercolor Society as well as recognition in several books and art publications.



Dinner is served

Dave Popke, below right, took over the cooking duties last Friday when the Plymouth Noon Rotary Club members and guests attended the annual picnic in Plymouth Township Park. Above, Popke presents the special meal of grilled salmon stuffed with crab and lobster to Club President Dale Yagiela, seated, third from left. Below, Plymouth City Manager Paul Sincock and his wife, Northville Parks and Recreation Director Traci Sincock, sample some of Popke's grilled treats.



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Valedictorians use brains, talent to get scholarships

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Two students with perfect grade point averages of 4.0 will be co-valedictorians for the Romulus High School Class of 2005.

The students – Ronald Brown and Jazmine Bennett – earned 4.0976 and 4.0319 grade point averages, respectively. Both 18-year-olds were offered several full scholarships to multiple universities as a result of their achievements.

Both students, through their grades and their attitude, are great representatives of Romulus High School, said district spokesman Dick Kruse.

Brown, the son of Kenneth and Sherill Brown, plans on studying secondary education at Wayne State University, where he was the recipient of a \$24,000

Presidential Scholarship. He had several other offers from Kettering University, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Eastern Michigan University and Siena Heights College before deciding on Wayne State University.

"I chose Wayne State because they offered me a full ride scholarship, and I thought that would be the best place to be if I wanted to play baseball," he said.

Active in several extracurricular groups throughout school, Brown said he most enjoyed being a coronetist in the Symphonic Band and playing on the golf and baseball teams. Brown excelled in athletics as well as academics and was named a U.S. scholar athlete at the senior night awards program last month.

He said the sport he enjoys the most is baseball. Right now, he hopes to study education – but

he acknowledges that could change. He said the thing he will miss most is seeing his teachers every day. Brown intends to live at home while he studies.

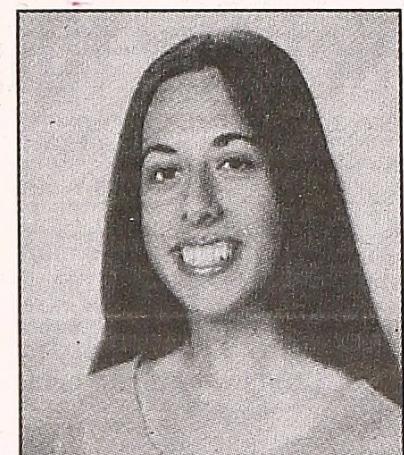
Bennett – the daughter of Dan and Starr Dailey Bennett – has accepted a \$26,000 scholarship to Bowling Green University in Bowling Green, Ohio. Like Brown she had several schools from which to choose.

The University of Michigan, Arizona State University, and Northland State in Wisconsin vied to add Bennett to their student roster. She intends to pursue a degree in psychology. Bennett received several departmental awards in a diverse array of subjects, including calculus, biology French and band. She was also a singles player on the Lady Eagles tennis team.

Bennett and her family were unreachable for comment for



Ronald Brown



Jazmine Bennett

this story. But Brown's father, Kenneth, said he's been walking tall since he learned his son would be co-valedictorian.

"My wife and I are so proud of him," he said.

"Words just can't describe how we feel about him and all he's done. I tell all of my friends that I

never wear button down shirts anymore because the buttons would just fly off. That's how I feel right now."

Commencement is scheduled to take place at 10 a.m. this Saturday at the Romulus High School Field House. This year, 220 students will graduate.

Tickets - Seat belt use a goal

FROM PAGE 1

shifting," he said.

"People are realizing that wearing a seatbelt is much safer than not."

The campaign – and a law that makes it a civil infraction not to wear a seatbelt in a moving vehicle – met with success. In 2000, seatbelt use in Michigan hovered around 70 percent. But by the next year, seat belt use climbed by 13.5 percent, to 83.5 percent according to figures obtained from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Decares said that as a result of the increased patrols, officers were able to write 107 other moving violations and civil infractions.

"I think the message is finally

Plan - Another hearing required

FROM PAGE 1

lighting, roadwork and underground power distribution system upgrades. The plan could continue as far as Ecorse Road, though city officials are not sure at this point where it will end.

City estimates indicate the project will cost about \$1.13 million. Starter funds will come from a grant from the State Department of Transportation and the city Tax Increment Financing Authority. Ongoing maintenance will be financed through the special assessment district so funds collected can be dedicated to the project and not diverted elsewhere.

State law allows municipalities to maintain special assessment districts for up to 10 years. Improving the appearance of Merriman Road has been a goal of city officials for some time. The overriding hope is that more businesses can be lured to the area.

Taxes collected towards the project are collected only from the business owners within the assessment district.

City council members are expected to approve the improvement plan following the required second public hearing at 6 p.m. on June 27.



Airport Operations personnel from Romulus had to be dispatched to Willow Run Airport to help find this raccoon a better place to live.

Airport Authority saves raccoon

Molly Tippen
Staff Writer

Ameristar Jet Charters almost had a fur-bearing employee on the payroll.

The creature, a raccoon that had taken up residence at Willow Run Airport, had to be evacuated to a more appropriate home by Airport Operations – which is headquartered in Romulus – after spending several weeks in a cage filled with sensitive airport parts. Employees had seen the raccoon before peeking through the airport tiles,

but were unable to catch him.

"Fortunately, he didn't sabotage the equipment," said Airport Operations Supervisor Rick Taig. "And though we didn't deem him a terrorist threat, we realized that we needed to help him find a more fitting residence."

Airport Operations set up a live trap in the Ameristar hangar and used peanut butter crackers to entice the raccoon into the cage. After just two days, the trap was successful and the masked mammal was on his way to a first-class raccoon paradise at Crosswinds

Marsh, a 1,000-acre wetland preserve owned by the Wayne County Airport Authority.

"Ameristar employees were extremely helpful throughout this entire process," said Taig. "They even fed the raccoon while he was caged to make sure that he was healthy for his journey."

The day after he was captured, Airport Operations transported the raccoon to Crosswinds Marsh and set him free. "I tried to snap a picture while he was exiting the cage, but he quickly ran off and disappeared into the wilderness."

Tax - Abatement will save jobs at local modeling plant

FROM PAGE 1

"Honestly, it raises some good questions," he said. "I think we can only imagine what would happen to us if (GM) picked up and moved – 2,500 people work at that facility."

With the abatement, Lopez was able to retain 89 jobs and create six as a result of the abatement.

Abatements provide a tax break of 50 percent on the taxable value of the improvement or expansion. According to state law, tax abatements can be granted for

no longer than 12 years.

The request for an abatement came on the heels of the announcement that GM would likely cut about 25,000 jobs and close factories in the United States, according to media reports.

"What we're really looking for here is continuity," he said. Most of the feedback the city has received from local business owners on Merriman has been positive, he said.

Road improvements include landscaping, improvements on existing structures, additional

Cystic fibrosis walk set for this Saturday

Andrea King
Staff Writer

Cystic Fibrosis affects more than 30,000 people in the United States and the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) is working to bring down that number in the future.

On Saturday, the college will host the first-ever Walk for Cystic Fibrosis in Belleville.

"The first time I heard someone mention cystic fibrosis I didn't know what it was. Coincidentally after that, someone approached us with the idea to host the event at the college so now we are," said April McCray, organizer of the event. "I did a lot of research on it and spoke with families who have been affected by it, and found out that cystic fibrosis really does affect a lot of people and not many other people know that. It really hit me. Now, our goal is to find a cure and all the money we raise will go toward that."

According to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the disease is a genetic one that causes the body to produce an abnormally thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and leads to life-threatening lung infections.

"Now, because of the foundation and the research, people

with the disease are able to live longer and live normal lives with it," said McCray. "We want to control and eventually cure the disease for everyone that has it."

The walk will start at 10:30 a.m. at WCCCD in Belleville and will take participants on a five-mile journey through Lower Huron Metro Park. Anyone is welcome to participate.

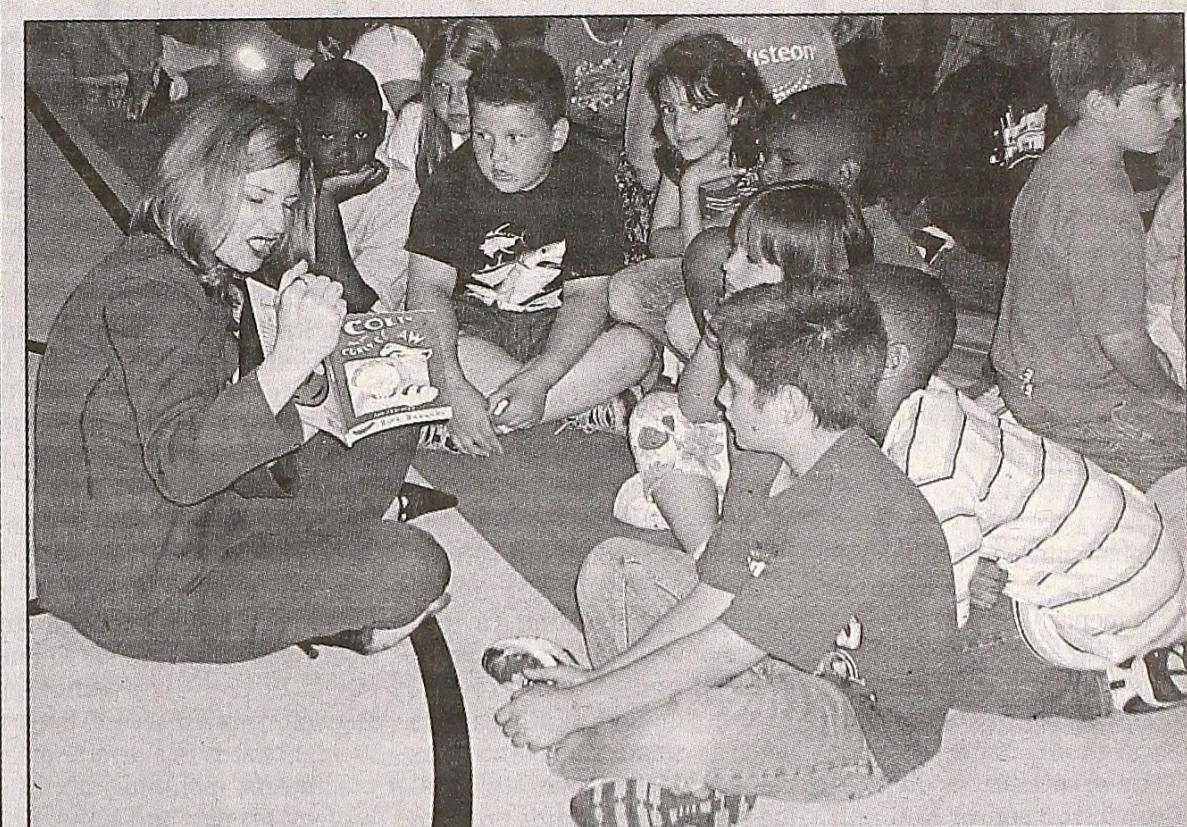
"We want people who have cystic fibrosis, who know someone who has it, or people who just want to support our cause," she said. "It's going to be an event for the whole family."

McCray said she is hoping to generate at least \$2,000 and have at least 100 people take part.

"We are looking for any kind of support, whether it's donations, sponsors, or walkers. People can show up the day of the event to donate or walk," she said.

College officials hope to continue the event on a yearly basis, along with having the City of Belleville recognize the date as part of the yearly cystic fibrosis awareness month, added McCray.

For more information on cystic fibrosis, contact Loraine Gehreinger, director of campaigns, at 1-800-968-7169. To register or donate to the walk, call 734-697-5181.



Read 2 Succeed

Last Friday, Tyler Elementary School students and volunteers from Visteon celebrated the ending of their yearlong program—Read 2 Succeed—with a pizza party. Julie Fream, vice president and general manager of the Daimler Chrysler Group, was one of the many guest speakers and readers at the event. Read 2 Succeed started in February to give elementary school students the opportunity to develop their reading skills by pairing them with adult mentors. The 40 volunteers who participated in the program came to the school twice a month to work with the students. "We at Tyler are so grateful for the dedication of these Visteon workers to give up their time to come and help our students realize how important reading and writing is to their success in the future," said Sally Coughlin, reading recovery teacher at Tyler. "The workers are excellent role models to our children." "Visteon invests in the communities where we live and work," said Melinda Bostwick, manager of corporate contributions. "We are new residents in Van Buren Township and it's important for us to be a good neighbor in the local community. The Read 2 Succeed program is one of the many ways we can do that. Sally taught us volunteers what we need to do and the children have responded enthusiastically." The program will continue in the fall for the 2005-2006 school year, according to administrators.

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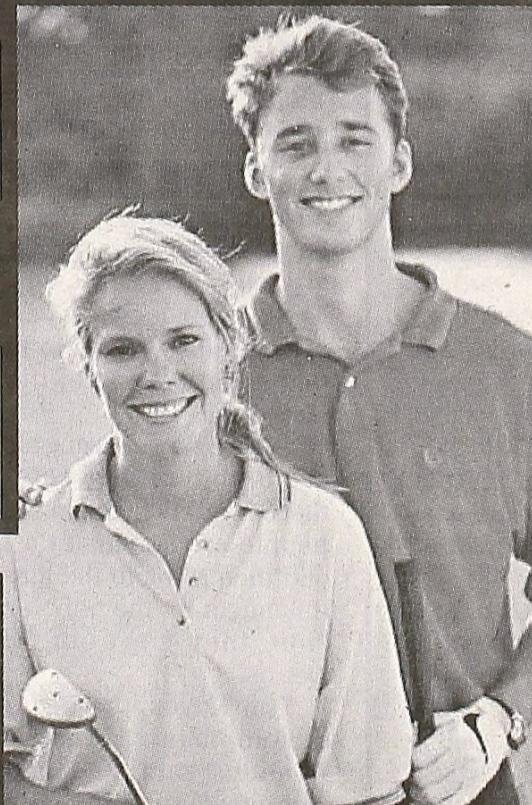
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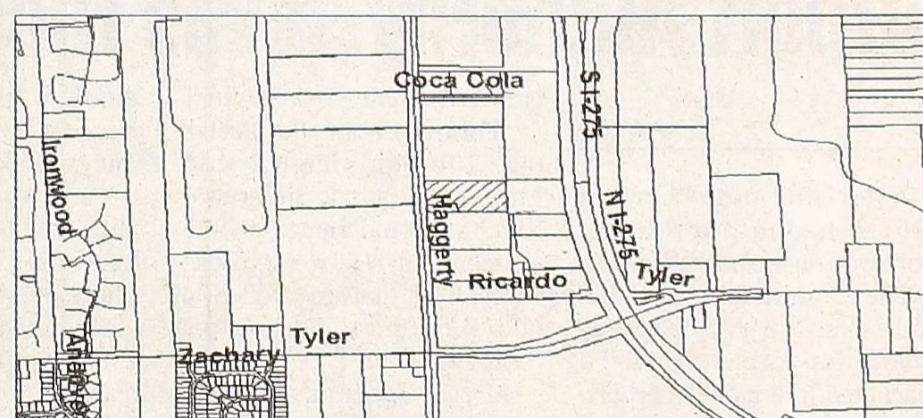
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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on Wednesday June 22, 2005 to consider a zoning change on the following described property:

The Public Hearing relates to the following described property:

Parcel number V125-83-047-99-0001-706 approximately 6.10 acres is located on the east side of Haggerty Road between Ecorse Road and Tyler Road. A map indicating the location of the subject site is included below.



Legend

Hatched area Proposed Insurance Claim Center

The applicant is requesting special use approval. A special use approval is required for outdoor storage per Section 15.03 of the Zoning Ordinance the proposed special land use must meet the specific requirements of Section 4.27, and the general requirements of Section 18.08.f. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 5:00p.m., June 22, 2005, the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services, at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

OPINION

Money well spent

At the end of their difficult budget planning sessions, officials in the City of Plymouth have something to be proud of and some difficulties to look forward to.

They can be proud that their efforts produced a balanced budget under distressing financial times. True, it wasn't without sacrifice and it wasn't without difficult decisions, but that appears to be the growing norm in this difficult economy.

The difficulty, of course, comes with the knowledge that their problems aren't over. They'll face an ever-increasing budget deficit next year and the years after under the current tax and funding model here in Michigan.

What to do?

Well, they took a good step Monday night when they decided to hire a firm – or at least investigate the cost – to send out a survey to the community to find what services are most important, and the like.

Now it might seem a strange thing for a municipality with such budget woes to decide to pay someone to conduct this survey, whatever form it ultimately takes. But there's an old saying that you have to spend money to make money; sometimes you have to spend it to save it, too.

A community survey would provide an invaluable tool for the commission – not just during upcoming budget sessions, but during regular planning sessions, as well. The commission has always done a good job, in our tenure, with soliciting the opinions of and listening to the thoughts of residents. Sometimes, though, there's no substitute for having raw, quantified data.

Officials in the City of Plymouth know they're going to face some tough choices in the future. They can be fiscally responsible all they want, reduce staff levels as much as they can, re-open labor contracts, look for ways to cut down on utilities and do everything under their power to keep costs down and, under the current formula, it still probably won't be enough.

Faced with that kind of economic uncertainty and granted enough time to try to head off the worst of it, it only makes sense that they gather as much information as they can, when it can do some good.

It might be costly to conduct this survey. It might prove too costly to do otherwise.

Project is a 'home run'

When most people think about Downtown Development Authorities – if they think about them at all – they probably conjure up images of brick lined streets, attractive light poles and plenty of landscaping.

It virtually goes without saying, though, that these images usually take form in the central business districts of the various municipalities that employ this useful legislation. Downtown is in the name, right?

Quite so, and that's why some people may think that these districts only provide a benefit to themselves, and not the community as a whole.

That is why we were particularly pleased to find about an improvement project planned within the Wayne Downtown Development Authority (DDA), but well outside the boundaries of the central business district.

The plan to improve the entrance to one of the largest subdivisions in the city is not necessarily a grand one. It calls for some new pavement, new sidewalks, some trees and accessory plants, along with a

See Project, page 6

WELL... WE MANAGED
TO CONTAIN COSTS
AND KEEP TAXES
DOWN... FOR NOW!!



Looking in all the wrong places

I learned something at the Westland City Council meeting last night.

The Westland Police Department has a few lawn mowers.

Yep, they do, but they're not the cool black and white retro units I've talked about in the past. They probably don't have any police decals or sirens on them, but they do serve a purpose. They're for people in the police work program to use for projects like cutting the lawns of senior citizens, community service works.

It makes sense, when you think of it. It also makes sense that they will eventually need some repair work. Things that are used will break. It's a fact of life. It follows that, when things break, it will cost money to repair them, too, and those funds will be allocated within the budget of the department. That logical sequence still didn't stop the few hundred dollars worth of repairs from becoming a long topic of discussion Monday night.

Sometimes, when these kind of things come up I sort of drift into a vacant stare to keep from being too obvious in my glances at the clock. It's everyone's right to question government expense, after all. And if people want to get their jollies by raising a few little things up the flag pole, well that's what freedom of speech is all about, right?

In my opinion, though, that kind of scrutiny is little too much.

Look at it this way: When Mayor Sandra Cicirelli was elected just more than three years ago, Westland was in a fairly tenuous position. They had an unallocated fund balance of only

about \$200,000 – a figure that could be eaten up quickly by some relatively minor emergency.

Since then, the administration and the city council have worked to bring that up; they boasted a fund balance of about \$1.5 million this year – and that's before they receive the funds from two land sales that will bring that figure over \$2 million.

That's not bad. Even the city officials themselves will tell you it's still an uncomfortably low number, but it's an improvement. It was also done at a time when they have received \$2.3 million less in state revenue sharing and dealt with the same rising costs as everyone else: payroll, gas prices and, most notably, insurance increases. If you factor those things in, it becomes a pretty remarkable turnaround.

And people want to quibble about lawnmower repairs and eyeglasses? Well, to each their own, I guess.

Granted, showing this kind of fiscal responsibility doesn't mean that city officials should have carte blanche to do what they want without any kind of oversight. It doesn't mean that we shouldn't raise our hands when something appears out of the ordinary or excessive, either. That's our job as citizens and mine as a member of the media.

We are talking about relatively minor things in a municipality with a budget that nears \$60 million every year, though. I think the council and the administration have earned a little more leeway than that.

Another take on the Golden Rule

Living —Compassionate Practice."

"Ayin is nothingness or egoless. It's learning the practice of striving for treating others in a spiritual, self-less way."

What Eric was talking about was simple.

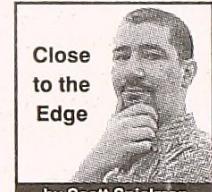
I hadn't hung up on the employee, but that didn't matter. She thought I did, and her feelings were hurt. Yes, she might be oversensitive, but that wasn't the point when it came to me. Whether she, or I, was right or wrong was not the question. If I was to achieve the joy of inner peace. If I was to achieve avodah, I needed to put aside my ego-driven need to be right.

"But, if I called and apologized for something I didn't do, it would be an admission of guilt," I told Eric.

"No, it would be an act of kindness in getting out-of-self and saying sorry for the misunderstanding, and that your (the employee) feelings were hurt," he answered.

Bingo, it made sense.

I called her and explained that I had not inten-



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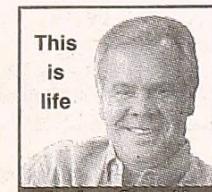
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See Rule, page 5

Letters

Police performance praised

To the editor:

I was one of the lucky residents who applied and was chosen to attend the Citizens Police Academy this winter. We are so lucky in Plymouth to have a have such a high level of training and expertise within our police department. Our officers need to be told how much they are appreciated for the job they do protecting our community. This community is lucky to have an employment center.

Plymouth has a high influx of employees every day to jobs located within our community and not only does our police force have to protect the residents, they have to be available to these businesses.

The Citizens Police Academy occurs once a year and has approximately 25 participants. The community has run four academies and also spends time in our schools with the fourth graders. Our officers are caring and responsible people; remember to thank the officer for being there for you.

Bev Stanton,
Plymouth

Millage gets resident's vote

To the editor:

I have been a Plymouth Township resident for 18 years. In 2002, Plymouth Township

instituted a program entitled the "Citizens Police Academy." My daughter Kelly and I were two of the first to take the course. The duties of the officers assigned to each of the departments, were explained to us by the officers, themselves. We toured the police department, and even had the chance to go on a ride-along with one of the officers, (my personal favorite).

This program impressed my daughter so much, she changed her major at Schoolcraft College to Criminal Justice.

In May, a millage renewal, and increase was defeated by voters. This millage renewal and increase is for the day-to-day operating budget of both the police and fire departments in our community.

We have all had to contend with increased expenses, and our police and fire departments are no exception.

Those same departments have also been hit by decreases in promised revenues by our state government. Our township works very hard to keep our taxes the lowest of the surrounding communities, so I urge the residents of Plymouth Township to vote YES and YES to both the millage renewal, and the millage increase. We need to support our police and fire departments.

Lynn M. Hetner,
Plymouth

Resident supports millage

To the editor:

It was very disappointing to see the Policemen/Firemen millage lose in the last election. Plymouth has one of the best public safety departments in the country and that is why it is a very desirable place to live. When we decided to move here about eight years ago, one of the key reasons was Plymouth's reputation for public safety.

We have had first-hand experience with both the police and fire departments and can emphatically say that they are among the best. A reduction in either because of millage failure would make Plymouth lose its status of a safe and desirable place to live. I don't have to

emphasize that response time from police and fire departments is a critical factor in life and death situations and I hope that citizens of this community will not let it be sacrificed for the cost of a cup of coffee a day.

Vijay Chaudhri,
Plymouth

Send us your letters

The Journal Newspapers welcomes all letters to the editor. Letters should be addressed to: The Editor, The Journal Newspapers, 35540 Michigan Ave., Wayne, Michigan 48184.

Project

FROM PAGE 5

welcome sign. It may not even be the grandest thing city officials hope for on that corner – that may be the removal of the ramshackle apartment complex nearby.

We think this is a nice project, though, a worthy addition to the subdivision and a worthy expenditure of DDA funds. This is something that will help brighten up the day for residents entering the large Avondale subdivision – and, since Winifred Street is the only entranceway to the subdivision from Michigan Avenue east of Venoy Road, it's one that is used by many residents. It will dress up an ugly corner and

hopefully it will inspire the residents to do a little extra in their own yards, on their own homes; foster a little more pride in the community.

That's the way DDAs work. They provide a spark that is carried on by private business owners or residents. The goal is to drop the proverbial pebble and watch the ripples spread over the pond.

It's nice to see the administration think about areas that are outside the heavily trafficked downtown area and it's nice to see the city think about the residents that make the community a special place in which to live.

The city administration may not have hit a home run with this project, but they certainly scorched a solid single into the gap.

Rule

FROM PAGE 5

tionally hung up on her, which wasn't important, I said. What was important, I told the employee, was that her feelings were hurt and I wanted her to clearly understand that I would never intentionally do anything to hurt her feelings. I added that I was sorry for the misunderstanding.

She appreciated my call and thanked me.

That's when I slammed the phone down on her. Of course, I'm kidding.

What happened next was amazing. I felt instant relief

from the stress the whole situation was causing me. My anger toward her boss disappeared, because he didn't matter. What did was, I had acted in a spiritual self-less way, a way I would want someone else to treat me and I felt good about it.

I'm liking this avodah stuff.

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B L O O M

West Bloomfield Fine Art Festival
June 25 & 26, 2005 - West Bloomfield, MI

City prepares for annual National Strawberry Festival

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The strawberries are ripe and ready to go.

And from June 17-19, during Father's Day weekend, strawberries along with visitors from throughout the area will take over the City of Belleville during the 29th Annual Belleville National Strawberry Festival.

This year, the festival will include live entertainment, original crafts, a car show, a pageant, a parade, helicopter rides, carnival rides, food, the fireman's waterball competition and other daily events.

The city-wide festival is located in seven areas including: Trinity Episcopal Church, Belleville Presbyterian Church, St. Anthony's Church, Belleville High School, Main Street, Victory Park and South Middle School. It will be open from noon to 11 p.m. on Friday, June 17, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday, June

18 and noon until 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 19.

The festival originated in 1976, when local farmers decided they wanted to start an event that celebrated strawberries, according to Janet Millard, executive director of the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce.

"The growers came to the chamber of commerce and asked to buy the name of the National Strawberry Festival. They did and the first one was held at St. Anthony's Church and from there it just blew up," she said.

"Something that was started to show the importance of strawberries has grown into an event that a big group of people work very hard to make happen," said Ralph Nodwell, former director of the festival. "Those people make it a safe, clean and quality festival for the whole family to enjoy which is why it draws thousands of visitors every year."

According to Mary Strope,

"The growers came to the chamber of commerce and asked to buy the name of the National Strawberry Festival. They did and the first one was held at St. Anthony's Church and from there it just blew up."

Janet Millard

executive director of the festival, the event will include a variety of daily events for everyone to enjoy.

The schedule will include area singers and groups performing in the W4 Country Strawberry Jam on Saturday. Local singers include: Amanda Meredith, Sarah Lenore, Ricky Smith, Austin Scott, Tommi Williams and Cole Meredith. Area groups, Fiddlers Restring, Funkee Station and April Gibson and The Jesse James Vanover Band will also fill the stage.

Other performers include: Blackberry Creek, Boots in Motion, Chris Solano, CT Soul

Men, Dance Connection, Deep Freeze, Enemy of the Sun, La Trinity, Serge and Taylor and Madison Towers. Performers Julia Ahearn, Kaylin Brown, Kendra Okamoto, Lynnae Winnie, Madalyn Tennace, Mary Knorp, Shaina Knorp, Shannon Salisbury, Stephen Clark, Steve Berkemeier, Tabetha James, Tierra Palmer and Tony Thompson will add to the live entertainment.

On Friday, visitors can watch the annual Strawberry Prince and Princess contest at noon at South Middle School along with the annual Strawberry Queen pageant at 7:30 p.m. at the

Belleville High School auditorium.

The Rotary Club annual pancake breakfast, a festival tradition, will take place from 8-11 a.m. on Saturday at the Belleville High School cafeteria. The parade will then begin at 11 a.m. and will include more than 150 entries of floats, musical entertainment, marching bands, clowns, motorcades and acrobats that will entertain the crowd for about two hours, said Strope.

The Belleville Lake Water Ski Club will also present their annual show from 1:30-2:30 p.m. on Saturday at the Horizon Park boardwalk. A farmer's market with fresh harvest from local growers and area artists' work sponsored by the Belleville Area Council for the Arts is planned for Saturday.

The strawberry festival offers free admission, plenty of parking and a shuttle bus service. For more information, call the festival hotline at 734-697-3137.

OBITUARIES

NEWSOM, Gracie

Gracie L. Newsom, 94, a resident of Sumpter Township since 1956, died May 12.

Among her survivors are her daughters, Mildred Hall of Belleville, Seamawn Cisco of Jackson, Ohio, Beulah Faye (Joe) Heflin of Belleville, Eula (Paul) Ward of Gilbert West, Va.; Freda (Ron) Roman of Belleville and Reeda (Paul) Dalton of Belleville; sons, Otto (Bea) Newsom of Dorton, Ken., and Algar (Brenda) Newsom, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio; 35 grandchildren; 92 great-grandchildren and 39 great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at Morning Star Old Regular Baptist Church where Mrs. Newsom was a member and known as "the mother of the church." Brother Billy J. Bevins officiated at the services.

Interment was at Addington Cemetery in Beefhide, Ky.

Local arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville.

BLACKBURN, Anna Lee

Anne Lee Blackburn, 79, who moved to Belleville recently after 50-years in Ypsilanti, died May 17.

Among her survivors are her son, Victor G. (Sherry) May of Gregory; daughters, Kathy V. (Jim) Wilson of Belleville and Teresa Sorufe of Ypsilanti; brothers, Tracy (Agnes) Blackburn, Luther (Mary) Blackburn, Vernon (Susan) Blackburn and Joseph Blackburn; sisters, Beatrice Woody and Rebecca White, all of Ypsilanti; 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at the First Freewill Baptist Church in Ypsilanti where Ms. Blackburn was a member with Pastor Rudy Shankle officiating.

Interment was at Washtenong Memorial Park in Ann Arbor.

MAUPIN, Shirley

Shirley Maupin, of Romulus, died May 17.

Among her survivors are her children, Michael, Gary

(Jeannette Little) and Stephen (Tiffany) Maupin; brother, Kenneth (Betty) Betz; grandchildren, Jeremy, Alicia (Ryan), Kyle, Justin, Shane, Stephen, Kevin and Jenna, and a great-granddaughter, Alanna.

Funeral services were at the First United Methodist Church of Garden City.

Arrangements were entrusted to the Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Wayne.

BRUGH, Dorothy

Dorothy L. Brugh, 59, of Belleville, died May 23.

Among her survivors are her husband of 20 years, Larry D. Brugh; children, Kathleen K. Parker of Superior Township, Kimberly G. (Tim) Heck of Lincoln Park, Jacqueline (David) Narczewski of Georgia and Jeannette "Gidget" (Ray) Barnhart of Superior Township; step-children, Jeff (Jessica) Brugh of Ypsilanti and Eric (Zoe) Brugh of Florida; siblings, Ruby Radcliff of Ohio, Ella Mae Williamson of Florida, Opal Dearth and Norma Lawry, also of Ohio; seven grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Mrs. Brugh retired from the Ford Motor Co. Wayne Assembly Plant after 13 years of employment.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Dr. John N. Grenfell III officiating.

Interment was at Knollwood Memorial Park in Canton Township.

ELLIS, Donna Mae

Donna Mae Ellis, 77, of Belleville, died May 24.

Among her survivors are her husband of nearly 60 years, Donald George Ellis; daughters, Linda (Kiki Scott) Ellis and Bonnie (Denny) Coughlin, both of Belleville, Diana Reposa of Ypsilanti and Tina (Shawn) DeBord of Belleville; a brother, John (Cynthia) Crawford of Gregory; seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Ellis was employed at the

Rawsonville Road Ford Motor Co. plant for more than 20 years prior to her retirement. She was a member of the Rainbow Girls and a former member of the Women of the Belleville Moose Lodge.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with Pastor Robert J. White officiating.

Interment was at Union-Udell Cemetery in Ypsilanti Township.

PETERSON, Ken

Ken Peterson, of Belleville, died May 27.

Among his survivors are his wife, Audrey; children, Margaret (Ron) La Casse, Gloria Steward and Samuel Kenneth; five grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at the Harry J. Will Funeral Home in Wayne.

MASTEN, Shirley

Shirley M. Masten, 74, of Taylor, died May 29.

Among her survivors are her children, Gerri Watt of Taylor, Michael (Peggy) Watt of Romulus, Patrick (Teri) Watt of Dearborn Heights, Thomas (Debbie) Watt and Joseph (Shelley) Watt, all of Romulus, and Richard (Glennis) Watt of California; brothers, Raymond Way of Canton Township and Jack Jones of Mexico; sisters, Jean Shuryan of Wayne and Kathy (Jim) Darfler of Westland; 19 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were at the Crane Funeral Home in Romulus with the Rev. William Kren of Community United Methodist Church officiating.

Cremation rites were accorded.

KINCAID, Debra

Debra Kay Kincaid, 46, of Canton Township, formerly of Romulus, died May 25.

Among her survivors are her children, Jessica M. Kincaid and Alan A. Kincaid, both of Canton; sisters, Mildred Adkins of Taylor; Linda (Stan) Sherman of Onstead

and Dianne (Archie) Kennedy of Belleville; brothers, Daniel McKinney of Taylor and Randy (JoAnn) McKinney of Ypsilanti, and a granddaughter, Maya A. Braxton.

She is also survived by her friends Clyde D. Kincaid and Joe and Don Ellis.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville with Pastor Don Nemeth officiating.

Cremation rites were accorded.

ZYWICKI, Raymond

Raymond W. Zywicki, 62, of Belleville, died June 1.

Among his survivors are his wife of more than 40 years, Doris Ann (Hiveley) Zywicki, children,

Randy (Maria) Zywicki of McKinney, Tex., Ron (Glynis) "Gigi" Zywicki of Lombard, Ill., and Greg (Kathryn) Zywicki of Milford; his mother, Helen Mary (Porch) Zywicki; siblings, John (Nadine) Zywicki of Livonia, Charles "Dick" (Linda) Zywicki, Jerry (Peggy) Zywicki and Don (Carol) Zywicki, all of Belleville; eight grandchildren, and 10 nieces and nephews.

Mr. Zywicki attended the Free Methodist Church in Ypsilanti. He was employed as a Critical Business Analyst.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home in Belleville with Pastor Mark Murphy officiating.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park in Flat Rock.

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Bump in the night...

Plymouth Arts council to sponsor séance next week

Jason Carmel Davis
Staff Writer

George Tait—a certified hypnotherapist—has studied the psychology of magic since he was 5 years old. Rudy TwoMoon has performed magic acts at various locations in the Plymouth area. Now, the two have teamed up to bring a unique event to the community.

Tait and TwoMoon formed ChaSeD productions to bring high-quality adult entertainment to the Plymouth area. At 7 p.m. on June 17, the two will perform a séance at the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

Each patron will receive a bound booklet outlining the séance rules and history, free to keep once the ceremony is complete. Patrons will also receive a protective vial that will aid in the journey and an actual artifact used during the séance.

The production—called “Magic & Mindreading”—is the second in a monthly series Tait and TwoMoon will present.

Tait said that the decision to do a séance was based on bringing something different to the community.

“We wanted to find something new to bring people to,” he said. “And we said, ‘you never know, maybe somebody will show up.’”

The two said that before each show, they research the area for material. This month, the show will focus on the Denton Road ghost in Canton Township.

*You'll be surprised
at what can happen
when people believe
in something.*

Legend has it that sometime during the 1800s, a murder took place near the Denton Road Bridge between Cherry Hill Road and Geddes Road. Some say that when people drive down the road at night,

a light comes out of river and chases their vehicle to the end of the road if they stop at the center of the bridge at night.

“You’ll be surprised at what can happen when people believe in something,” Tait said.

Before the ceremony begins, patrons will walk into the room—which seats 65—and be seated in pairs. The only thing that will be in the room is a single candle, while the area will be lit by a red light.

The two entertainers have taken their acts to a variety of places. TwoMoon has performed at various venues in the Plymouth community, along some Fortune 500 companies. Tait has lectured at college campuses and high schools.

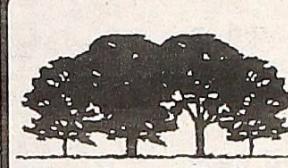
“We both really love this art,” TwoMoon said. “And it’s being helped by the fact that magic is more accepted than it’s ever been.”

The two have performances lined up for the rest of the summer. TwoMoon said those who attend are in for a treat.

“We want to do something different and turn the town upside down,” TwoMoon said.

For more information, and a performance schedule, go to magic-by-george.com or RudyTwoMoon.com.

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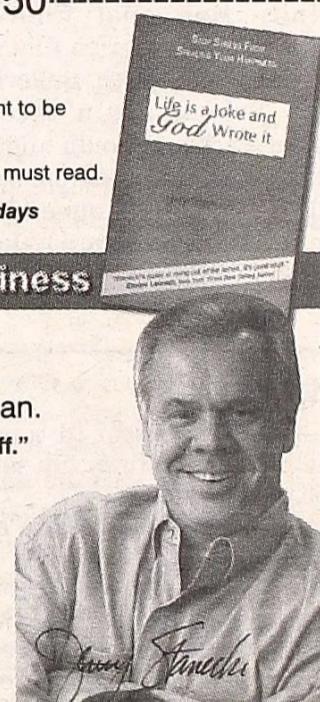
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SPORTS

Novi tops Northville, wins district championship

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

It started out like a sign from the heavens. The clouds that loomed over the area Friday parted to let the sun shine down on Stevenson High School soccer field at game time.

However, it wasn't written in the stars for the Northville Mustangs, who fell behind early and succumbed, 4-1, to the Novi Wildcats.

Unfortunately for Northville, it wasn't just a regular season game. They weren't only playing their rival team for bragging rights, this time. This time, it was for a Division 1, District No. 8 championship.

"Novi is a very good team. There are very few teams that can play offense and defense simultaneously."

Northville Coach Ron Meteyer

the 5:51 mark of the first half. The tally came off of one of the seven corner kicks Novi received. Emily Esbrook launched a high arcing ball that went through the hands of Northville goalie Liz Watza. Crawford punched it in.

That was the first time Watza had been scored on all season.

Esbrook fired another corner kick toward the goal almost five minutes later, which Katie Walker knocked in for a score and a 2-0 lead. Junior Katie Weicksel replaced Watza in the net with about 13 minutes left in the half.

Northville looked determined to turn things around in the second half.

It only took 1:16 of the second frame for Northville to cut the deficit in half. Junior defender Kate Hawthorne took control of the ball and connected a pass to senior midfielder Jen Kritch, who popped it over the Novi defense. Then junior forward Lauren Hill put it over the top of Novi's keeper Kim Herbst.

With 26:42 left in the game, Kelly Hebert made a deep throw in that deflected to Walker, who put it in for her second

The game started off quick with a goal from Novi's Stephanie Crawford at about

See Mustangs, page 10



Canton Chiefs win district championship

Canton ran away with the Division 1, District No. 6 title when they defeated neighboring rivals the Salem Rocks, 3-2, on Saturday. Becci Houdek, Kelsey Zemanski and Lisa Ealy (above, 24) scored the team's three goals. Salem's scores were by Amy Gizicki and Megan McCarthey. Canton also defeated Ann Arbor Pioneer, 1-0, and Livonia Churchill, 5-0, to make it the championship game.

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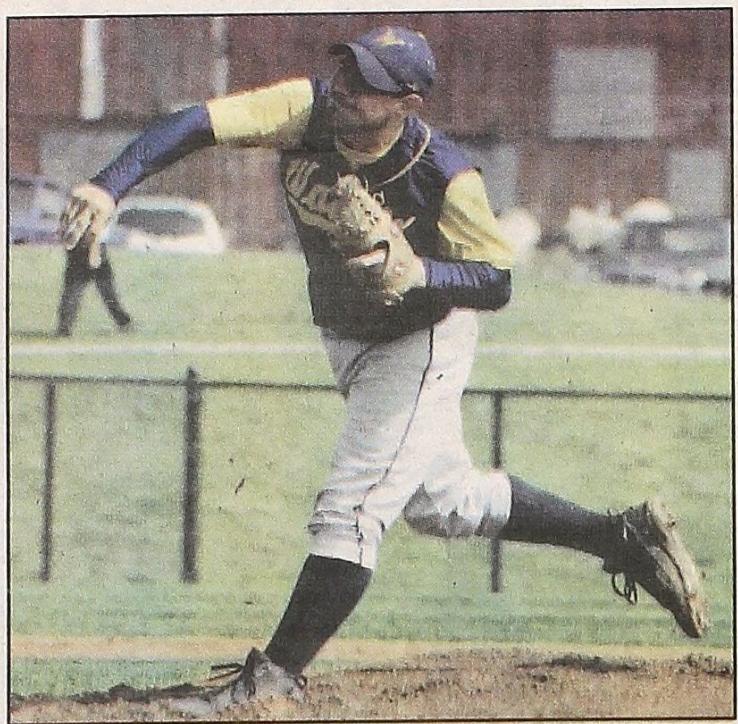
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Wayne's starting pitcher David Clendenning pitched a four-hitter with six strikeouts and no walks in Saturday's district match-up against Livonia Franklin. Wayne lost the bout, 3-2.

Franklin ousts Wayne in district tourney

Wayne Memorial's baseball season came to a crashing close when Livonia Franklin ousted them early from the district playoff tournament on Saturday.

Wayne out hit the Patriots but fell, 3-2.

All the action took place in the first inning. Franklin used a two-strike homer and a two-run homer to take a 3-0 lead.

David Clendenning only allowed one hit the rest of the way. He struck out six and didn't give up any walks. The

Wayne offense scored a run in the third and fourth frames, but stalled out rest of the way.

Clendenning, Jeremy Jamnick, Clint Serna, Andrew Kaleto and Justin Schofield acquired the hits for Wayne. Earl Martin and Kaleto scored the two runs.

Wayne and Franklin split their regular season games. The Zebras defeated Franklin, 6-3, late in the season—a part of their 14-game win streak—to wrap up the division championship.

Mustangs - Northville falls to Novi in district finale

FROM PAGE 9

goal of the night.

Then, with frustration building and time running out, a Novi player went to the ground at the expense of Northville. Novi was paid in full with a penalty kick by Walker who essentially put the game away, 4-1, with about 18 minutes left to play.

"Novi played a better game," Meteyer said. "The girls got scared and started playing the long ball and putting it in the air and Novi plays the ball real well in the air. But that's not our game."

"We knew what our weaknesses were and we hoped that another team wouldn't expose them," he added. "Coach (Brian) O'Leary is a good, smart coach and he must have seen something when we played Stevenson the night before. We played right to their strengths and to our weakness."

The loss came off of an emotional contest against Livonia Stevenson the night before. Northville pulled out a 3-0 victory.

Hill, who saw very few opportunities against Novi, scored twice for the 'Stangs and sophomore Danielle Toney, who didn't record a single shot against Novi, scored the third goal against Stevenson.

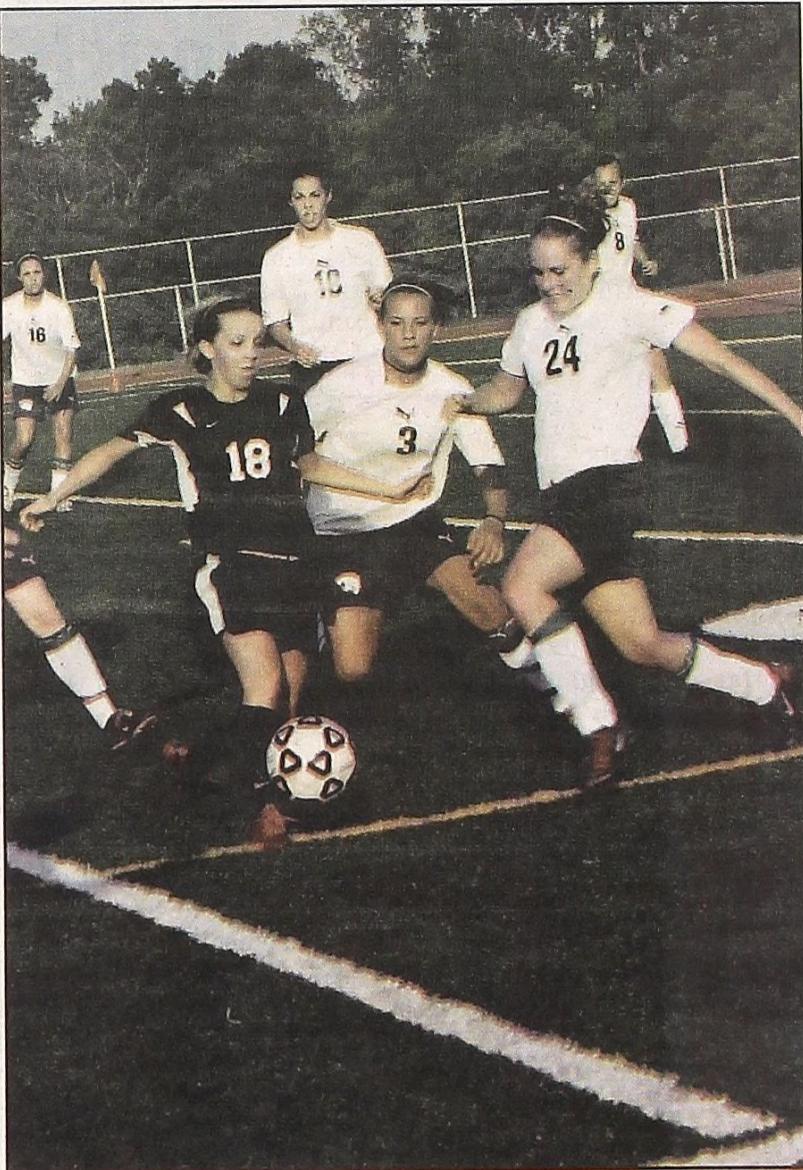
Watza made eight saves for the win.

The Mustangs mercied Walled Lake Western, 10-0, in the first

round of playoffs.

Junior midfielder Lindsay Blair scored three goals; Hill and Toney scored two apiece; and

junior midfielder Jessica Meyer, junior forward Sarah Comai and senior midfielder Amy Cauzillo each scored one goal.



Northville's junior midfielder Lindsay Blair (18) gets swarmed by Novi's sophomore midfielder Emily Esbrook (4) and junior defender Lauren Marchioni (14), in the 4-1 district championship loss.

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Romulus runners place 3rd in Class "A" competition

The Romulus High School boys track team punctuated their stellar season with an exclamation point when they placed third in the state Class "A" tournament in Rockford on Saturday.

Romulus coach Joe Burgerino was ecstatic about the top-three finish.

"I was hoping for a top-10 finish

with an outside chance of the top-five," he said. "But the third place finish was just super and a credit to our team this year."

Senior Daniel Kinney won the Class "A" 110-meter hurdles out right with a time of 14.38 seconds. He also finished third in the 300-meter hurdles and was a part of the third-place 1600-meter

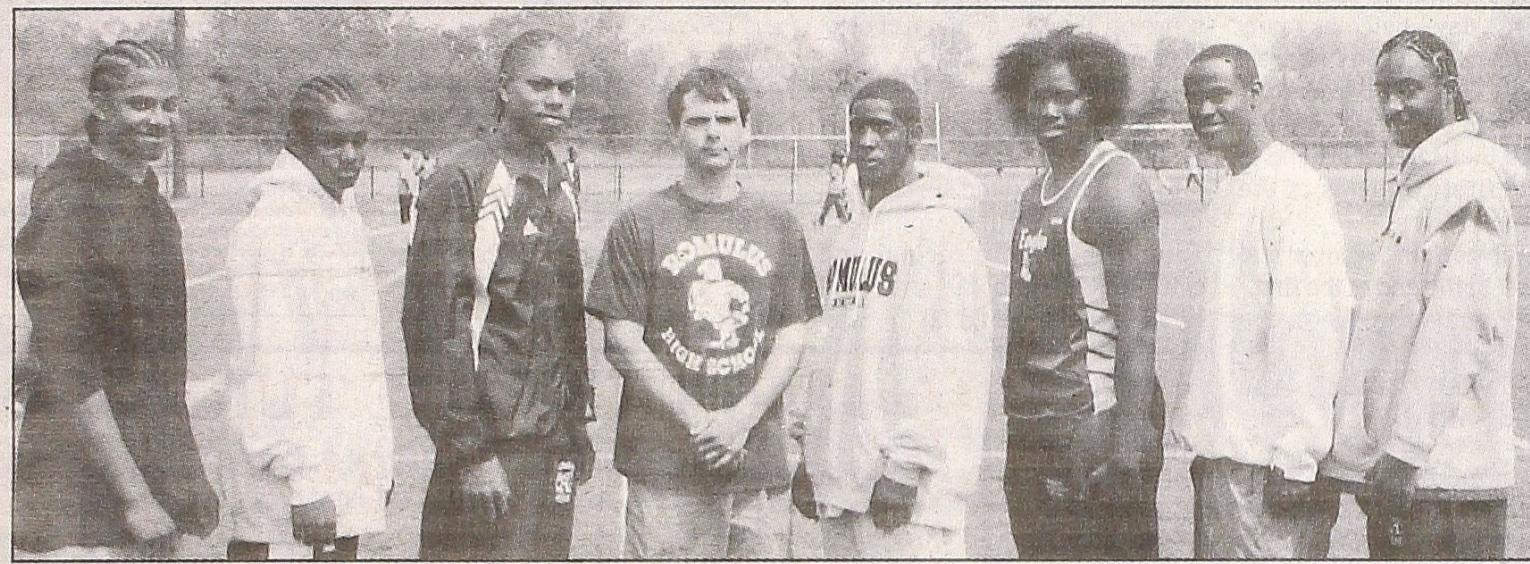
relay team.

Sophomore Shane Wells placed fifth in the 300-meter hurdles and ran on the fourth-place 800-meter relay team with teammates Kelvin Valentine, Mario Crawford and Lewis Perry. He was also a member of the third-place 1600-meter relay team along with Sam Tilmont, Valentine and

Kinney.

Junior Landria Buckley helped lead the Lady Eagles track team to a 13th place finish in Class "A" competition.

She finished second in the 100-meter hurdles and ran on the fourth-place 800-meter relay team with Courtney Squire, Sholonda Webb and Brittany Howard.



Members of the state Class "A" third place boys' track and field team are (from left): Shane Wells, Mario Crawford, Daniel Kinney, Coach Joe Burgerino, Anthony Price, Jason Valentine, Kelvin Valentine, Sam Tilmont. Not pictured is Lewis Perry.



Landria Buckley finished second in the state Class "A" 100-meter hurdles.

Plymouth Wildcat soccer drops to Crestwood, 2-1

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

"The season can come to an end so quickly."

That's what Plymouth soccer coach John Delplace said last week after his team suffered a 2-1 loss in their first varsity-level district tournament against Dearborn Heights Crestwood.

"Crestwood was definitely ready to play," Delplace said. "We came out and seemed a little disorganized and just couldn't get anything going and we seemed to be doing a lot of chasing Crestwood around."

Despite coming out flat, the Wildcats held Crestwood scoreless for the first half.

After the 10-minute break it was Crestwood that drew first blood about 13 minutes into the second half.

It didn't take long for Plymouth to respond. Val Klemmer crossed the ball through the mouth of the goal and freshman Carlee Barackman turned around and volleyed the ball past the goalie, according to Delplace.

The goal brought a little life into the girls, he said.

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WaCo Wolves baseball wins second tournament

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The WaCo Wolves were at it again last weekend, winning their second tournament this month.

After a close opener, they trounced two other teams on the way to the championship game at the Great Lakes Shootout in Farmington. Then the under-10 baseball team played what coach Art Cameron said was a "true baseball classic" to win it all.

It was a come-from-behind nail-biter against the Mid Ohio Mustangs, where they battled back from a 4-1 deficit to capture the championship, 5-4.

Romulus' Jamari Eiland struggled some from the mound in the finale, but made up for it at the plate. He scored two runs, including the winner, and nailed two singles with an RBI. On the hill he allowed all four of the Mustangs' runs but he also struck out four batters in 4 2/3 innings.

Dimitrius Bryant (Detroit) came in for relief and corralled the Mustangs by retiring all five batters he faced.

On offense Jake Pacholski (Dearborn), Daniel Cameron (Livonia) and Jared Terill

(Huntington Woods) scored the other three runs. Jake Keeley (Allen Park) had two singles and an RBI while Daniel Cameron had an RBI on a perfectly executed squeeze play, according to Art Cameron. Kyle Gaines (Oxford) and Terill had the other RBI.

Errors played a small part in the game. The Wolves committed four on the day—twice as many as the three previous games, combined. The first two batters reached base on an error and a single and then circled around to score the first two runs of the game.

The Wolves didn't recover and trailed, 2-0, at the end of the first.

They managed to keep the Mustangs at bay in the second with some good defense and answered with some of smart offense.

Eiland singled to left then stole second and third bases to set the Wolves in scoring position. Then Daniel Cameron laid down a suicide bunt to score Eiland. The Wolves now trailed, 2-1, after two frames.

The Mustangs added two more runs in the top of the third to extend their lead, 4-1. Terill led off the third with a single and subsequently scored on a single

by Keeley to make it a 4-2 game. The Wolves closed in on the Mustangs in the bottom of the fourth session when a one-out walk sent Daniel Cameron to first. Joey Roman (Canton) came in to pinch run for Cameron. Roman advanced to second on a single by Brady Hardin (Livonia). Then Terrill came around to score on Terrill's fielder's choice. That made it a 4-3 game.

With two outs in the bottom of the fifth, Pacholski singled on and then stole two bases to make it to third and Eiland singled him home to knot the game 4-all. Eiland then stole second and third and came home on a wild pitch for what would be the winning score.

Bryant then sat down the Mustang batters 1, 2, 3 for the win.

The Wolves started out pool play against long-time rivals the Detroit Eagles.

And when it was all said and done with the Wolves

pulled ahead for a 10-7 victory.

The Wolves used three pitchers to earn the win.

Hardin started and pitched the first four innings. He struck out five, walked four and allowed three runs. Keeley followed and walked three and allowed four runs in his session. Eiland finished from the hill with three Ks and two walks.

Also on defense, Brad Connochie (Woodhaven) threw runners out at second and third.

On offense nobody had more than one hit. Gaines and Keeley both singled and had a walk while Cowart and Connochie each singled. Gaines, Keeley, Cody Cowart (Dearborn) and

Connochie scored two runs each. Keeley and Cowart each recorded two RBI.

The Wolves also thrashed the Southfield Giants, 26-2, and trounced the Pittsburgh Diamond Dawgs, 16-1 ion their way to the championship game.

The win at the tournament qualified the Wolves for the USSSA 10-under World Series in South Haven, Mississippi, July 23-30, 2005.

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Mustangs baseball falls to Salem

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

After defeating Novi in dramatic fashion, the Northville baseball team fell to the Salem Rocks, 7-6, in the district finale on Saturday.

The Stangs went up, 3-0, in the first frame, but Salem overtook the lead, 7-4. Northville put together two more runs to make it a 7-6 game in the fifth but their streak ended and Salem moves on to regional play.

"We just couldn't put anything together," said Northville Coach John Kostzrewa.

Senior Steve Besk doubled in the outing and scored once. Junior Charlie Thomas went 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored; senior Tyler Laing nailed two hits with an RBI and three runs scored. Senior catcher Matt Williams was 1-for-4. Sophomore Bret Spencer was 2-for-3.

Northville managed to put things together in their earlier contest against neighboring rivals Novi, though.

The 'Stangs led most of the way until Novi knocked in four runs to tie the game, 4-4. But Northville mustered up four more runs in the sixth for an 8-4 lead.

Then, Novi loaded up the bases with their best hitter at the plate. Senior pitcher Steve Besk got his team out of the jam and earned the win.

"It was an exciting game," Kostzrewa said. "We led 3-0 for three innings then they chomped away at the lead. There were several close and exciting plays. It was a fun game to be a part of."

"We only struck out three times," he added. "The whole game we did a good job of putting the ball in play."

Besk also had two hits in the game along with Thomas, who also had an RBI and one run scored. Williams had two hits with an RBI, while Tyler Laing had a hit with an RBI and a one run scored. Ricky Birdsall had a single and a triple with an RBI.

Northville finished up the season with a 20-11 overall record.

"We had goals that we didn't accomplish but it was still a successful season," Kostzrewa said. "I think with our All-American catcher being down for 11 games and doing as well as we did with as many young players as we had, it bodes well for the future."

Northville stands to lose nine seniors to graduation but should still have a strong core of returning players. They will have to seek out a new catcher as both Williams and Birdsall graduate, but the team should be in top shape from atop the mound. They have three experienced underclassmen—Spencer, junior Tim Parent and sophomore Bryce Jenney—returning for another go at it next season.

Pioneer holds off Tigers, 15-9

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Belleville's baseball crew almost had the comeback of the district tournament last week when they faced off against Ann Arbor Pioneer.

The Tigers were down 15-0 after five innings but, once Pioneer took out starting pitcher Zach Putnam, Belleville rallied back with nine scores. Pioneer ended the run when they put their starter back in. The game ended, 15-9.

Just about everyone got a hit in the final two innings of the game, according to Belleville coach Chris Dessimier.

"We kept hitting and scoring," he said. "The kids played hard, they competed. They could have quit when it was 15-0, but they didn't."

It's not quite the way they wanted to end the season but Dessimier hopes to build for next year.

"I feel confident with the group we have coming back and some of the youngsters coming up," he said.

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Cyclists to join in Relay for Life Saturday

Scott Spielman
Editor

There will be a very visible – and audible – addition to the annual Relay for Life in Westland this year.

When participants and residents alike flock to Thomas Brown Central City Park on Saturday for the 24-hour event, they'll most likely see a sea of black clothing and hear the ear-drum jarring cacophony of hundred of motorcycles.

A Group Motorcycle Ride will start at the park to help support the annual fundraiser, according to Robin Murphy, one of the people coordinating the event.

"We've been involved with the Westland Relay for Life for years and we thought this would be a good idea," she said.

The idea for the fundraiser itself came from Lynette Hubyak. It works like this: anyone is able to take part in the event. Bikers

pay \$20 for themselves and \$10 for passengers for the group trip, which will travel out to South Lyon and back to Westland on a winding track down roads such as Cherry Hill, Beck, Geddes, North Territorial and Hines Drive. It will conclude at the Ford Road Bar just west of Wayne Road.

Registration starts at 9 a.m. on Saturday, and the ride begins at noon.

Several organizations helped make the fundraiser happen, Murphy said, including the Westland Police Department, the Wayne County Sheriff, the Motor City Harley Davison H.O.G. Chapter – which is providing 30 road captains to assist police escorts – and Motown Biker Bob's Harley Davidson.

"There have been so many businesses that have donated door prizes, too," Murphy said.

Group motorcycle rides are popular among motorcycle enthu-

siasts in part because of the attention they draw, she said.

"There are motorcycle runs all over in conjunction with many charities," she said. "This is just the first one that's been held in Westland."

Registration and the trip start will be at the Tot Town area of the park, she said. The group will travel out to South Lyon where they'll make a stop at the South Lyon Hotel – they have the entire second floor reserved – and then travel back to Westland.

She said they would return to the city at about 4:30 p.m. Many members of the fundraiser will stay around to take part in the 24-

Relay for Life festivities, too. That event starts at 10 a.m. on Saturday and concludes at about 10 a.m. on Sunday.

Murphy said that, so far, the response has been strong for the fundraiser.

"I'm hoping for 500 motorcycles; that's my goal," she said. "All we need now is for Mother Nature

to cooperate and give us a beautiful day."

Registration takes place on the day of the event, but anyone with any questions can call Murphy at (734) 237-4127.

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The YMCA will host the annual Father's Day Run Sunday, June 19 in downtown Plymouth.

Age groups and start times include Diaper Dash (0-12 months), 9 a.m.; Wee Walkers (12 months-2 years), 9 a.m.; Kid Trot (3-4 years), 7:30 a.m.; Kid Jog (5-8 years), 7:45 a.m.; one-mile walk/run, 8 a.m.;

5-k walk/run, 8:15 a.m.; 10-k walk/run, 8:45 a.m. and the MDG Triple at 8:45 a.m.

Packet pick-up will be at the YMCA office, 248 Union, from noon-3 p.m. Saturday, June 18, and at 6:30 a.m. on race day.

Register on-line at www.gaultracemanagement.com or call the YMCA office at (734) 453-2904. Pictures by Dr. Andrew Rubenstein will be available at www.plymouthpictures.com.

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1. Obituaries

TUCKER, Shirley B., age 73 of Pinckney, Michigan passed away peacefully June 5, 2005 following a courageous battle with cancer. Shirley was born Dec. 27, 1931 in Gregory SD. She enjoyed her rural small town upbringing, before attending the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. Teaching was a recurring theme in her career choices, beginning as the teacher of a one room, 5 grade elementary school in Gregory. She took great pride in her 15 year career with American Airlines, working reservations and air freight in Chicago, San Francisco, Detroit and San Juan PR. Upon her retirement from American Airlines she focused several years on raising her family and caring for her mother. Her return to professional life came with a position at Michigan Technical Institute in Ann Arbor, where she developed and taught the travel and tourism program. In 1985 she left the Institute to establish World Travel, Inc. in Plymouth. She enjoyed a successful career as owner and travel agent until her final retirement in the fall of 2001.

Shirley was always eager to experience something new. She was a dedicated gardener, fervent antique and Native American art collector, proud dog owner, and avid reader.

Shirley was married Jan. 1, 1964 to Coy L. Tucker in Midland, Texas. She is survived by her husband Coy, her daughter Kaya Tucker, her daughter Cheryl Jagger, son-in-law Max Jagger, their children Molly and Tucker, daughter Karen Neal, son-in-law James Neal, their children Spencer and Marissa, son Mitchell Tucker, daughter-in-law Ann, their son Marshall, son Lee, daughter-in-law Debra, their son Michael, and son Thad, daughter-in-law Rose, their children Candyce (Jason) Smith and daughter Emma Rose, and Wendy (Jason) Rains and daughter Alyssa Jean.

Cremation has taken place. A private celebration of her life will be held by the family. We request that anyone wishing to honor her memory consider contributions to St. Joseph Mercy Cancer Care at PO Box 995, 5301 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48106, or St. Joseph Mercy Hospice at 806 Airport Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48108.

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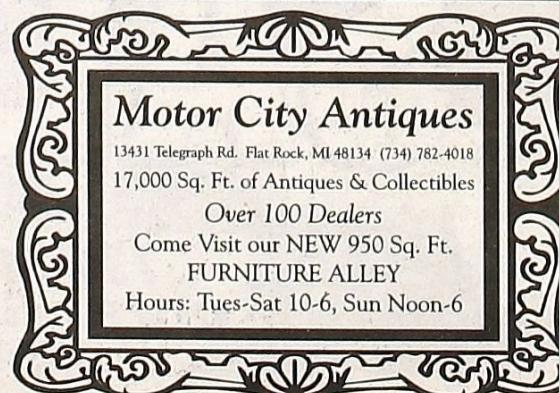
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F/T Maintenance position available. Franchise hotel experience preferred.
Outdoor pool, A/C, and electronic lock experience required.

34. Specialized Services

BRATCHER ELECTRIC
COMPLETE CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SINCE 1956
Remodeling • Service • City Repairs
734-722-0037
35728 Van Buren • Wayne

57. Antiques



Own a Computer?
Put it to Work!
Indep. Income
Opportunity.
24hour recording
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800-545-5208 or
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Student/outdoor type person needed for part-time summer work.
Weed control/farm chores.
Must have valid DL
Call 734-453-6139

32. Help Wanted

DRIVERS WANTED
2 years exp. required,
Class A CDL, Automotive company experience preferred. Call: 734-955-5560
or
734-231-4969

34. Specialized Services

LEEF LAWN CARE
Mowing, Edging, Rototilling, Spring and Fall Clean-Ups, Gutters and More
GREAT RATES. Call 734-728-2419

40. Business Opportunity

ATTENTION: COMPUTER HELP NEEDED
\$25/hour, Training Provided
Independent Income Opportunity
888-870-4017 or
www.sm-global.com

Travel the world with a full bank account.
Start your own home-based travel business.
travelthesunsetgetpaid.com
877-870-7300

42. Health and Fitness

LOSE WEIGHT LIKE CRAZY
Burn Fat, Block Craving's, Boost Energy!
All Natural!
Super Easy!
Call: 888-852-7381
www.sandy4health.com

58. Garage and Yard Sales

Garage Sale
4329 Edmund, Wayne, MI (near Mich. & Howe)
Fri. June 10 & 11
9:00am-5:00pm

MOVING SALE

June 9, 10 & 11
10:00am-6:00pm
Rain or Shine
American Presidential Estates
6236 E. Adams
Belleville, MI

59. Auctions

AMERICA'S BUDGET STORAGE
Notice of closed bid public sale pursuant to Michigan State Law, a sale will be held on June 23, 2005 at 1:00pm at:

America's Budget Storage
40671 Joy Rd.
Canton, MI 48187

Sale to be on the following units:

B2-Heide Moody-furniture, tools, ladder, toys, boxes

B4-Sean Pigeon-furniture, boxes

D41-Frances Bauers-business equipment

E26-Charles Meltzer-furniture, snow blower, guitar, boxes

E32-Microlite Technologies-tools, furniture, desk, boxes

06. Legal Notice

Notice of Application to Establish a Branch of a State Member Bank

Citizens Bank, headquartered in Flint, Michigan intends to apply to the Federal Reserve Board for permission to establish a branch at 20560 Haggerty Road, Northville, MI 48167. The Federal Reserve considers a number of factors in deciding whether to approve the application including the record of performance of applicant banks in helping to meet local credit needs.

You are invited to submit comments in writing on this application to Patrick Wilder, Assistant Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 230 South LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60604. The comment period will not end before June 24, 2005 and may be somewhat longer. The Board's procedures for processing applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. Part 262. Procedures for processing protested applications may be found at 12 C.F.R. 262.25. If you need information about how to submit your comments or to obtain a copy of the relevant procedures, contact Alicia Williams, Vice President and Community Affairs Officer, at (312) 322-5910; to request a copy of an application, contact Patrick Wilder at (312) 322-8463. The Federal Reserve will consider your comments and any request for a public meeting or formal hearing on the application if they are received in writing by the Reserve Bank on or before the last day of the comment period.

1988 Ford 2 Dr
1FABP6043JH201961
Inv. #99673/115

1992 Ford 4 Dr
2FACP74W5NX214271
Inv. #101005/140

1996 Dodge Van
1B4GP54R0TB260131
Inv. #100946/127

1998 Ford 4 Dr
1FAFP52U7WG122685
Inv. #100856/144

1989 Plymouth 2 Dr
1P3BP44D1KN663799
Inv. #100799/122

1991 Ford S/W
1FAPP15JXMW239680
Inv. #100863/148

1991 Dodge 2 Dr
1B3XP24D7MN643863
Inv. #101037/133

1992 Mercury 2 Dr
1MEPM6045NH610363
Inv. #100982/136

Please note: The bidding will start at the towing and storage charges.

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DAVID C. BROWN

FUNERAL HOME
460 E. HURON RIVER DRIVE

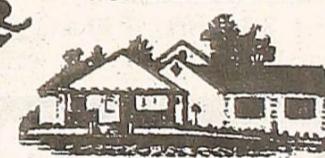
David C. Brown, Manager

Belleville

734-697-4500

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ROMULUS
734-941-9200
WILLIAM A. CRANE



Harry J. Will

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Inkster, MI 48141

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CITY OF WESTLAND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC
AUCTION

On JUNE 14, 2005 the Westland Police Department will conduct public auctions of impounded abandoned vehicles. The first auction will begin promptly at 10:00am at Westland Service Towing, 37501 Cherry Hill, Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1989 Ford Tempo
4 Dr Red
1FABP36X8KK174468

1989 Mercury Merkur
4 Dr Blue
WF1BT81V4KE892521

1996 Mercury Cougar
2 Dr White
1MELM6245TH606306

1978 Ford Fairmont
2 Dr Silver
8E93F130006

1988 Lincoln Continental
Red
1LNBM9842JY882618

The second auction will begin promptly at 11:00am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

1990 Dodge Dynasty
4 Dr Blue
1B3XC46K4LD868720

1995 Dodge Neon
4 Dr Silver
1B3ES47C9SD223996

2002 Ford Mustang
2 Dr Blue
1FAFP40432F150688

1991 Honda Civic
4 Dr Black
1HGKD3646ML049280

1990 Ford Taurus
4 Dr Red
1FAFP53U2XA274800

All vehicles are sold in "as is" condition. Bidding on all vehicles will start at the amount due for towing and storage. Vehicles may be deleted from this list at any time prior to the start of the auction.

30 DAY NOTICE OF AUCTION
Due to unknown ownership, 30 day notice is hereby given that the vehicles listed below will be auctioned after JULY 9, 2005 unless they are claimed by the owners prior to that time:

1990 Toyota Tercel
2 Dr Burgundy
JT3EL31F6L0544453

1986 Buick Century
4 Dr Grey
1G4AL27RXGD425526

61. Misc. Items

3-piece leather pit group
(sofa, loveseat & wedge)
\$2000

6 Oslo black
lacquer chairs
\$800

78" x 43" Tivoli dining room table
(with 2 16' leaves)
\$1000

All furniture purchased
at Gorman's

734-453-0406

Orlando/Disney Area
7 Day Family Vacation
(good for one year) Paid
\$600
Must sell
\$199!
Call: 734-473-0441

73. Musical Merchandise

4/4 Violin
w/bow/case/rosin
\$425 or best
Call 734-326-5221

87. Rooms For Rent

AAA Willow Acres
Motel, low daily and
weekly rates.
Refrigerator, microwave,
HBO. Call 734-721-1220,
Tel-96 Inn 313-535-4100.
Fairlane in Novi
248-347-9999

88. Duplexes For Rent

WESTLAND
3 Bedroom Duplex,
New windows,
New siding,
Freshly painted throughout
\$575/month
Call 734-722-0160
for appointment

WESTLAND-NORWAYNE
Call for list of available
2 & 3 BEDROOM
duplexes, and single
family homes. Section
8 welcome. Lead safe
units available.
Professional full-time
management.
Norplex Associates
734-722-6444
EHO

89. Apartments For Rent

WAYNE
Near Wayne Road Very
quiet and clean
1-bedroom. Heat and
water included.
Ideal for singles and
retiree's.
No Pets
\$450/month w/app. credit
313-561-9818
or 313-247-2075

Wayne, MI
Quiet 1 Bedroom
Well maintained
Heat/water/A/C inc.
No pets
Great for singles &
retiree's
\$470/month
Call a manager @
734-729-2108
or owner @
734-878-0859

90. Condos & Town-houses For Rent

PLYMOUTH
Hidden Ridge
2 bedroom/2 bath
1200 square. ft.
Garage, neutral decor,
Wooded view
\$970/month
248-374-3927

95. Real Estate

HOME BUYER

SEMINAR

Livonia Civic Center
Library
Sat. June 11, 2005
10:00am
Call: 248-712-3490
for further information

96. Houses For Rent

BELLEVILLE
Farmhouse,
4-bedroom,
New siding, windows
and blinds, garage
\$650/month

SELECT 1
313-724-8680

BELLEVILLE
Central air, spacious,
Appliances, jacuzzi
\$825

PLYMOUTH
Ranch, basement,
Appliances
Option to buy
\$700
RENTAL
PROFESSIONALS
734-513-RENT

GARDEN CITY
Brick, 3-bedroom,
1.5 baths,
Finished basement,
Garage
\$575/month

SELECT 1
313-724-8680

INKSTER
4 Bedroom, all brick, New
carpet, paint, blinds and
patio
\$525/month

SELECT 1
313-724-8680

INKSTER
Near school, garage,
Fenced, Sec. 8 ok
\$575

INKSTER
Spacious 3 bedroom,
Basement
Option to buy
\$650

Many Homes Available
RENTAL
PROFESSIONALS
734-513-RENT

INKSTER
Quiet neighborhood
Remodeled 4 Bedroom
Home, storage area,
appliances,
Walkout basement,
2 1/2 Car Garage, Patio,
Big Fenced Lot,
Security System.
Section 8 welcome
Best on the block!

For sale or rent with
Option to buy.
\$895/month.
734-644-6615

INKSTER
Wayne/Westland schools
3-Bedroom ranch
Fenced yard
Section 8 welcome
\$795/month
Call 734-697-0145

ROMULUS
4-5 Bedroom,
Finished basement,
Huge fenced yard,
2.5 car garage
\$575/month

SELECT 1
313-724-8680

ROMULUS
4-bedroom, vinyl sided
ranch, full basement, large
yard
\$900/month
One month sec. deposit.
Call: 517-223-0209

ROMULUS
Basement, 2 car Garage,
appliances
\$700

WAYNE
3 bedroom, garage,
Appliances
Fenced 4 pets
\$850

All Cities Available

RENTAL
PROFESSIONALS
734-513-RENT

TAYLOR
Brick 4-bedroom,
1.5 bath,
New w/w carpet, Fenced,
patio
\$625/month

SELECT 1
313-724-8680

WESTLAND
2-3 bedrooms, 2 baths,
A/C, carpet,
2 car garage
\$600/month

SELECT 1
313-724-8680

WESTLAND
Absolutely affordable
Available now
\$635

WESTLAND
Air, finished basement,
Appliances, pets nego.
\$775

Several Homes Available

RENTAL
PROFESSIONALS
734-513-RENT

100. Will Share

Roommate Wanted
to share home
in Westland.
10 Min. from airport
\$300/month
includes utilities.
Call: 813-495-3637

89. Apartments for Rent

Belmont Manor apartments

ONE MONTH FREE RENT!

Spacious 1 Bedroom Apartment

ONLY \$560*

Spacious 2 Bedroom Apartment

ONLY \$660*

• Extensive Storage • Fitness Center
• Minutes from Eastern MI University,
Metro Airport & University of MI

3 Blks. South of Belleville Rd.
(Main St.) On Huron River Drive

For Details Call
(734) 699-2042

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107. Condos & Town-houses For Sale

PLYMOUTH
Hidden Ridge
2 bedroom/2 bath
1200 square. ft.
Garage, neutral decor,
Wooded view
\$154,900
248-374-3927

115. Autos For Sale

1986 Corvette Convertible
Indy Pace Car
60,000 Miles
Original owner!
Must sacrifice!

\$8,900
Call 586-212-1882

2001 Lincoln LS
Excellent Condition
Loaded-Low Mileage
\$18,000
248-344-2174

Honda's from \$500. Police
Impounds.
For listings call:
1-800-495-0660 (xt3302)

Call 734-467-1900
to place your
classified ad.

118. Freebies

4-Drawer Dresser
\$50
313-590-7306

8,000 BTU
Window air conditioner
Very good condition
\$40
734-455-2689

Cherished Teddies
Collectable
Reg. \$12.50-\$30
\$5 ea.
734-844-3341

TV/Stereo Oak Cabinet
\$75
734-420-2332

BOLD PRINT ATTRACTS MORE READERS! CALL 734-467-1900 to place your ad.

89. Apartments for Rent

OAKLAND MANOR APARTMENTS
Inkster-Adult Community • Modern Apartments
FROM
\$450/mo. Over 640 Sq. Ft. 1 Bedroom
\$99.00 Security Deposit w/approved credit
Central Air & Heat • Garbage Disposal
• Large Walk-In Closets
Ample Off-Street Parking • Laundry Facilities
• 1 Block n. of Michigan Avenue • 15 minutes to Metro Airport, Amtrak, Ford Village
• Smart Bus Transportation to Downtown Detroit
Short Term Lease Available.
CALL 734-718-8409 • 313-920-5966

First Month's Rent FREE!
• FREE Heat • FREE Water
• Large individual Storage area
• Laundry Facilities In Each Building
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• 24 Hour Maintenance
• Carport Parking
• Centrally located to the Airport, Highways & Shopping
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3000 West Jefferson 734-676-3000

Hamburg Lumberyard, Equipment Rental

7750 M-36 Hwy 810-231-4000